ing alſo with me the Camilla, Vulture ſloop, Cornwallis, Crane, and Philadelphia galleys, and two gun boats. We paſſed the chevaux de frize without any accident, and came too with the Raiſonable, about eight miles above Dobbs Ferry; I then went into the Camilla, and, proceeding on with the tranſports, anchored juſt out of random ſhot of Fort La Fayette, which the rebels had erected on Verplanks Point; Major-general Vaughan, with a part of the army, landing on the Eaſt ſide, and Sir Henry Clinton, with Major-general Pattiſon, and the remainder of the troops, on the oppoſite ſhore, about a mile and a half from Stony Point, an exceeding ſtrong poſt, where the rebels were erecting a block-houſe, and fortifying the heights. On our approach they quitted their works, and ſet them on fire, eſcaping to the mountains. The troops very ſoon took poſſeſſion, and, with infinite fatigue and labour, heavy cannon were dragged up a ſteep precipice, from a very bad landing-place; the three gallies being advanced fired upon Fort la Fayette, which was returned by the rebels. Major-general Pattiſon, of the artillery, had with indefatigable perſeverance erected two batteries (one of which was mortars) during the night, and at dawn of day began to play upon the rebel fort; the diſtance acroſs the river being about 1000 yards, and was commanded by the high ground of Stony Point: the cannonading continued all day, during which General Vaughan and his diviſion marched round, and completely inveſted the enemy's poſt.

As ſoon as it was dark, I ordered the Vulture and Cornwallis galley to paſs the fort, and anchor above it, to prevent the eſcape of the rebels by water; this was done without damage, and had the intended effect; the fire from our batteries and gallies being now much ſuperior to that of the enemy, they beat the chamade; the cannonading ceaſed; a flag of truce was ſent in to ſummon them, and they conſented to ſurrender the fort and their arms, and become priſoners of war. We found the fort a ſmall complete little work, with a block-houſe, double ditch, chevaux de frize, and abbatis. His Majeſty's troops have taken poſſeſſion of it, and are alſo fortifying the ſtrong poſt of Stony Point, by which we are maſters of King's Ferry, and oblige the rebels to make a detour of ninety miles acroſs the mountains, to communicate with the country eaſt of Hudſon's River.

I am, Sir, &c.

Philip Stephens, Eſq. G. COLLIER.

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When Venus pleads, ev'n Jove can ill refuse,
And yields reluctant to Minerva's views.

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PREFACE.

THE UNIVERSAL MAGAZINE has for more than Thirty Years continued to be the faithful Chronicle of public Tranſactions and Events; while it has been alſo a rich Repoſitory of whatever was moſt intereſting and curious in the various Branches of Science and Literature, that tended either to *Knowledge* or *Pleaſure*. The Editors have ſpared no Labour nor Expence to merit that Encouragement which has only ſtimulated them by every Means in their Power to render theſe Volumes full and complete Memoirs of the Times; and in this Character they will prove of no leſs Value to ſucceeding Generations than to cotemporary Readers.

The Cloſe of the Old Year, and the Commencement of a New One, is a Seaſon of general Recollection, and of Acknowledgements to our Friends: we therefore make Uſe of this Opportunity of addreſſing our numerous Friends and Contributors, gratefully to return our beſt Thanks for all thoſe paſt Favours, that embolden us to hope for the Continuance of their kind Approbation.

The Taſk before us is of a very extenſive Nature, and claims an unremitted Attention; but the American War, the Troubles in Europe, and our own Parliamentary Debates, have for ſome Time paſt afforded, and ſtill continue to furniſh, political Materials of too much Importance to be ſlighted; if therefore Articles of a more amuſing Kind are ſometimes obliged to make Way for National Concerns, we truſt the Plea will be

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accepted with Indulgence by our juvenile Readers, who as they advance into active Life, will be more ſenſible of the Obligations we act under: they may in due Time look back with great Satisfaction on what may now be conſidered as Obſtructions to their Monthly Entertainment.

The ſame Cauſe may occaſionally have expoſed us to Suſpicions of neglecting the Favours of our Correſpondents; but we are too often indebted to them for valuable Communications to diſregard our beſt Friends. In the Selection of Articles to lay before the Public, the Caution, requiſite for our own Reputation, includes alſo an Attention to that of our reſpective Contributors. When we know not the Parties, there can be no Temptation, no Prejudice, to give a Bias to our Judgment; and, when we reject, a little Self-examination may enable a candid Writer to queſtion, whether the Partiality he feels in Favour of his own Productions, may not ſometimes be rather too ſtrong. If farther Evidence is neceſſary, it muſt be waited for; and, if a young Lady, or Gentleman, will only lock up the *firſt* Effuſions of their Imagination for a few Years, the Chance is greatly in Favour of our Opinions being juſtified by their own riper Judgment.

In brief, the Variety we ſtudy to afford our Readers will, after all, receive a Tincture from the Complexion of the Times; for whatever moſt engages the public Attention, will, more or leſs, obtrude on us, in a larger Proportion than others: this will ever be expected, and, under due Reſtriction, muſt be complied with. But, nevertheleſs, agreeable to the Title of our Monthly Miſcellany, our Aim ſhall be, that no Claſs of Readers may at any Time conſult the UNIVERSAL MAGAZINE, without finding their peculiar Taſtes conſulted in the Choice and Diſtribution of the Subjects.

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